



STATE OF UTAH  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
Oil, Gas & Mining

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May 29, 1987

TO: Atlas General File - M/037/051 *cc: dg*  
Lowell Braxton, Administrator  
Dave Wham, Hydrologist  
Frank Jensen, Soils Specialist

FROM: Frank J. Filas, Reclamation Engineer *[Signature]*

RE: Reclamation of Atlas Mines

On May 21, 1987, Richard Blubaugh, of Atlas Minerals, and I spoke at length concerning mine reclamation. Atlas has just finished reclamation of all but one of its Colorado mines and would like to begin reclaiming some of its Utah mines. Most of Atlas's mines were in existence prior to the 1975 Reclamation Act, and reclamation will be difficult to achieve in some areas. We agreed that Atlas would pick the specific mines and that the Minerals Permitting Team would meet Mr. Blubaugh and their equipment operator onsite prior to reclamation, so that any site specific problems can be ironed out.

Once a mine is reclaimed, the bond will be reduced accordingly. I explained to Mr. Blubaugh that, in most cases, the Division will not authorize full bond release until 70 percent of the original ground cover is achieved after three growing seasons. Atlas believes that the current bond amounts are too high and is preparing new bond estimates for all of its mines at this time. I indicated that we would be happy to review these estimates and make adjustments where appropriate.

Mr. Blubaugh is willing to give us a tour of Atlas's reclaimed mines in Colorado. This seems like a good idea, and I would like to schedule such a tour in late June, if it can be worked into everyone's schedule.

clj  
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